

Playing Up

The phrase “playing up” refers to players that are playing in an age group immediately above the one that they fall into according to the RDYSL age matrix. Play-Up is a sensitive issue to parents, players and clubs. Because of this it is important that everyone involved follows the play-up process exactly as stated. Our Club must follow a consistent and documented process.

There are two situations that may be considered for Penfield Rangers players who want to play up.

1. Grade Appropriate: Players born between August 1 and December 1 are in the same grade as players born between January 1 and July 31 of the same year.
2. Exceptional Player: Highly skilled player who may be more challenged at a higher level.

Guidelines for playing-up:

1. The Exceptional Player:
 - a. Only players U13 and up will be allowed to request to “play-up” in the exceptional player category.
 - b. Players can only play up a single year higher than their defined age group, and are eligible only for the A team at that higher age group.
 - c. The player will be registered for the age group in which they wish to play. For example, a U14 player wishing to play at U15 will register for U15 and indicate that this is a play-up request. This is all the notification required.
 - d. Players requesting to play-up will attend the first try-out session for the older team. This will allow the coach to evaluate the player’s ability to play at the A team level for the older age group. If the first try-out session is missed the player will not be considered for the older team.
 - e. If the player’s scores and field demeanor during the first try-out session demonstrate that he can likely play on the A team of the older age group, the player will be invited back for the second try-out session. By attending the second session for the older age group, the player gives up any consideration for placement on a roster at the younger age level. Also, there is no guarantee that the player will be placed on a roster in the older age group.
 - f. If the player’s scores or field demeanor during the first try-out session do not demonstrate that the player can play at the A team level of the older age group, the player can attend the second try-out session for his appropriate age level. The coach must notify the Try-out Coordinator and the Age Group coordinator for the lower age group and share the scores achieved by the player.
 - g. After the first try-out session, the player can opt to abandon the play-up request and continue the second try-out session for his appropriate age level. The player must notify the Try-out Coordinator before the second try-out session. The Try-out Coordinator will notify both Age Group Coordinators and scores from the first session will be shared.
 - h. After try-outs, the team rosters will be formed by the coaches in the older age level. The player may be placed on the A team within the older age level or placed on a waiting list based on scores, field demeanor, and the discretion of the head coaches for the age level.

If the player is placed on a wait list or cut, the player can request a spot on a roster at the younger age level through the Try-out Coordinator. At the coach’s discretion the player may be offered a roster spot on the age-appropriate team if there are open spots – another player may not be bumped to make way for this player.

- i. If the player is rostered on the older team it only ensures that player a roster spot on that team for that season. The process must be followed each season.

2. The Grade Appropriate Player:

- a. The Penfield Rangers Soccer Club will utilize a modified age matrix that expands the age level to include players from the first half of the younger age level. For example, in 2011 the RDYSL age matrix defined U9 as players born between Aug1, 2001 and July 31, 2002. The modified age matrix will include players born between Aug 1, 2002 and November, 2002 in this group (i.e., 18 months). A player born in this period could choose to register for U8 or U9.

- b. A player whose birth date falls in the first four months of the modified age range will be considered a “grade-appropriate play-up” and will indicate this when registering. This is all the notification that is required.
- c. Players requesting to play-up will attend the first try-out session for the older team. This will allow the coach to evaluate the player’s ability to play at either A or B team level of the older age group. If the first try-out session is missed the player will not be considered for the older team.
- d. If the player’s scores and field demeanor during the first try-out session demonstrate that he can play on the older level team (either A or B team), the player will be invited back for the second try-out session. By attending the second session for the older age group, the player gives up any consideration for placement on a roster at the younger age level. Also, there is no guarantee that the player will be placed on a roster in the older age group.
- e. If the player’s scores or field demeanor in the first try-out session do not demonstrate that the player can play at the older level, the player can attend the second try-out session for his appropriate age level. The coach must notify the Try-out Coordinator and the Age Group coordinator for the lower age group and share the scores achieved by the player.
- f. After the first try-out session, the player can opt to abandon the play-up request and continue the second try-out session for his appropriate age level. The player must notify the Try-out Coordinator before the second try-out session. The Try-out Coordinator will notify both Age Group Coordinators and scores from the first session will be shared.
- g. After try-outs, the team rosters will be formed by the coaches in the age level. The player may be placed on any team within the age level or placed on a waiting list based on scores, field demeanor, and the discretion of the head coaches for the age level.
If the player is placed on a wait list or cut, the player can request a spot on a roster at the younger age level through the Try-out Coordinator and may be offered a roster spot if there are open spots – another player may not be bumped to make way for this player.
- h. If the player is rostered on the older team it only ensures that player a roster spot on that team for that season. The process must be followed each season.

NOTES:

The Penfield Rangers Soccer Club reserves the right to move players when it will be in the best interest of developing a player and/or to maintain a team at a particular age group. This discretion is not bound by any guidelines and requirements of the Play Up policy. The Penfield Rangers understand that players under the age of 13 may want to be considered for the “Exceptional” player policy. The Rangers Board believes that those players, if that talented, may be better served playing at a premier level and are encouraged to do so.